**Ourselves** 

When the throaty calls of sandhill cranes

echo across the valley, when the rimrock flares

incandescent red, and the junipers

are flames of green on the shortgrass hills,

in that moment of last clear light

when the world seems ready to speak its name,

meet me in the field alongside the pond.

Without careers for once, without things to do,

without dreams or anger or the rattle of fears,

we'll ask how it can be that we walk this ground

and know that we walk, alive in a world

that didn't have to be beautiful, alive

in a world that doesn't have to be.

With no answers, just ourselves and silence,

we'll listen for the song that waits to be learned,

the song that moves through the passing light.

From Of Earth: New and Selected Poems

Lost Horse Press, September 2012